

Message Text

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USM USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCEUR

USM GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2638

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET/FRG RELATIONS AND THE "SPY AFFAIRS"

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1. SUMMARY. THE FRG EMBASSY HERE BELIEVES THAT THE "EXPOSE" OF ONE OF ITS OFFICERS AS AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT PRINTED IN THE SOVIET PRESS FEBRUARY 18 IS A SOVIET KNEE-JERK REACTION TO THE WEST GERMAN TELEVISION FILM ON SOVIET SPY ACTIVITIES IN THE FRG, AND DO NOT EXPECT IT TO HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS ON SOVIET-GERMAN RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH CONTINUING PUBLICITY OF THIS TYPE CANNOT IMPROVE DETENTE PROSPECTS OVER LONG TERM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY HERE HAS BRIEFED US FULLY ON THE EVENTS CULMINATING IN THE FEB 18 LITERATURNAYA GAZETA ACCUSATION THAT FRG FIRST SECRETARY EBERHARD HEYKEN "IS WORKING ON ASSIGNMENT FOR THE WEST GERMAN BUDESNACHRICHTEDIENST" WE WILL BE REPORTING BY AIRGRAM A DETAILED NARRATION OF THE EVENTS WHICH LED UP TO THIS ACCUSATION, FOR THEY REPRESENT A TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE OF SOVIET RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST CHARGES THAT THEIR DIPLOMATS SERVING ABROAD ARE OPERATING AS INTELLIGENCE AGENTS.

3. THE CHARGE AGAINST HEYKEN WAS CLEARLY MADE IN REACTION TO THE KONZELMANN TELEVISION PROGRAM IN THE FRG FEBRUARY 2 PURPORTING TO EXPOSE THE ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET KGB AGENTS IN WEST GERMANY. BEFORE THE FILM WAS ACTUALLY TELEVISED, THE SOVIETS LEARNED THAT IT WAS BEING PREPARED, AND IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FRG EMBASSY HERE MFA HAD ALLUDED TO THE PROBABILITY THAT "APPROPRIATE ACTION" WOULD BE TAKEN IN REACTION AGAINST WEST GERMAN DIPLOMATS IF THE FILM WERE SHOWN. WEST GERMAN NEWSMEN RESIDENT HERE WERE ALSO INFORMED BY THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS AT THAT TIME THAT THE SOVIETS PRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE USED TOWARD SUCH ENDS. HEYKEN WAS PROBABLY CHOSEN AS THE TARGET BECAUSE HE FINISHES HIS TOUR IN MOSCOW IN MID-MARCH, AND HIS DEPARTURE AT THAT TIME WILL SAVE THE SOVIETS FROM ANY EMBARRASSING NEED TO PNG HIM.

4. THE FRG EMBASSY FEARS THAT THERE MAY BE MORE SUCH INCIDENTS TO COME. THEY NOTE THAT THE KONZELMANN PROGRAM "EXPOSED" TWO SOVIET DIPLOMATS NOW IN BONN, AND THAT FURTHER ARICLES IN THE MAGAZINE QUICK NAMED FOUR SOVIET DIPLOMATS

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SERVING IN BONN AS KGB AGENTS. THE WEST GERMANS HERE ARE DOUBTFUL THAT THE SOVIETS WILL REST UNTIL THEY HAVE MADE CHARGES AGAINST A LIKE NUMBER OF THEIR PEOPLE.

5. OUR SOURCE TELLS US, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ASSIDUOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO CONVEY TO THE FRG EMBASSY THAT THEY WERE "FORCED" TO RETALIATE IN SUCH A FASHION, AND THAT THEY DO NOT WANT THE AFFAIR TO INFLUCEN LARGER QUES-

TIONS NOW BEING DECIDED IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. AS AN EX-AMPLE, SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THE FRG AMBASSADOR CALLED ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ZEMSKOV FEBRUARY 12 TO PROTEST THE BRAZENLY OBVIOUS SURVEILLANCE TO WHICH HEYKEN AND SEVERAL OTHER DIPLOMATS WERE BEING SUBJECTED, MFA'S THIRD EUROPEAN DIVISION (IN CHARGE OF THE GERMANY, INTER ALIA) CALLED IN THE WEST GERMANS AND DISCUSSED THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW BEING CARRIED ON IN BONN ON THE FRG-SOVIET CULTURAL AGREEMENT, EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL SOON COME TO A SUCCESSFUL END. THE SURVEILLANCE THEN ENDED THE NEXT MORNING.

6. THE WEST GERMANS HAVE ALSO BEEN WATCHING THE MEDIA CLOSELY TO SEE IF IT HAS REFLECTED ANY DETERIORATION IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, AND SAY THAT THEY HAVE YET TO FIND ANY SUCH EVIDENCE.

7. COMMENT: WE WOULD AGREE THAT THE SOVIET MEDIA DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE CHANGED ITS TREATMENT OF FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS, EITHER FOR THE BETTER OR FOR THE WORSE. IN GENERAL, WE SEE NO REASON TO DISAGREE WITH THE FRG ASSESSMENT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO ISOLATE THE HEYKEN/KONZELMANN PROGRAM AFFAIR IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT HAS NO RIPPLE EFFECT. THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO SEE DETENTE AS A PROCESS WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE MOVES AND CURRENTS WE WOULD FIND CONTRADICTORY, AND ARE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH THESE CONTRADICTIONS THAN MANY WESTERNERS. AT SOME POINT, HOWEVER, THE CONTRADICTIONS MAY MULTIPLY TO THE POINT WHERE QUANTITY BECOMES QUALITY. BUT EVEN THE GERMANS AGREE THAT WE ARE FAR FROM THAT POINT AT PRESENT.
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